

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /085 W
-----001517 210253Z /72

R 201714Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9973

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPPOSITION CONCERN ABOUT CHANGE IN
FRG POSITION

1. CDU DEPUTY MERTES, MBFR EXPERT AND DEPUTY
CHAIRMAN OF THE BUNDESTAG ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE, WAS REPORTED BY THE PRESS ON JULY 20 TO
HAVE EXPRESSED THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION'S CONCERN THAT THE
REPORTED FRG DESIRE TO ACCELERATE THE MBFR TALKS AND TO
SURRENDER THE SUBSTANTIVE CONNECTION WITH SALT REPRE-
SENTED A "SERIOUS CHANGE" IN THE GERMAN POSITION AND
ENDANGERED BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT IN THE FRG ON MBFR
POLICY. MERTES WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE
OFFICIAL FRG POSITION REQUIRED PATIENT NEGOTIATIONS AND
THAT THE CHANCELLOR SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT HE SHOULD NOT
JEOPARDIZE THE INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSENSUS ON AN
ESSENTIAL QUESTION BY SEEKING QUICK ILLUSORY
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RESULTS.

2. MERTES ALSO SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR MUST HAVE
DISCUSSED WESTERN ARMS CONTROL AND SECURITY POLICY WITH
THE SOVIETS BEFORE HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT.
HE CALLED ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS "DISTURBING."

3. AT THE JULY 20 FEDERAL PRESS CONFERENCE, THE FONOFF SPOKESMAN INDICATED THERE WAS FULL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE U.S. ON MBFR AND SALT. HE DENIED ASSERTIONS AS COMPLETELY MISLEADING THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE CONNECTION BETWEEN MBFR AND SALT HAD BEEN SURRENDERED. RATHER, IT HAD MERELY BEEN AGREED THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE WESTERN ALLIES IN WHICH OF THE TWO AREAS QUICKER PROGRESS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED THAT THE WESTERN POSITION HAD NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS INITIATIVE AND THAT THE FRG NATURALLY HELD TO THE PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY PRINCIPLES. THIS ALSO MEANT, ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS HAD NOT BEEN CONSIDERED.

4. IN A BACKGROUND INTERVIEW APPEARING IN THE JULY 20 "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE," THE CHANCELLOR INDICATED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH THE "SUBSTANTIAL PROPOSALS" ON MBFR WHICH GENSCHER AND LEBER HAD WORKED OUT TOGETHER. HE SAID THE PROPOSALS MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH THE NATO PARTNERS. THE CHANCELLOR DID NOT PROVIDE ANY DETAILS IN THE INTERVIEW REGARDING THE PROPOSALS. RATHER, HE STATED THAT THE FRG'S IDEAS WERE STILL BASED ON PARITY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND ON COLLECTIVITY OF WESTERN DEFENSE. THE INTERVIEW CONTINUED THAT SCHMIDT WOULD DISCUSS MBFR WITH BREZHNEV WHEN HE COMES TO BONN IN ORDER TO SEE WHETHER MOSCOW HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AN INTEREST IN MAKING PROGRESS POSSIBLE IN VIENNA. SCHMIDT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "ON THIS POINT I HAVE IN GENERAL A GOOD FEELING."

5. COMMENT: THIS IS THE SECOND WARNING ISSUED BY MERTES SINCE MAY THAT CDU/CSU SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S MBFR POLICY WAS IN DANGER OF ERODING (SEE BONN 08003 NOTAL).
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
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